

**--CLAIM OF BENEFIT TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS**

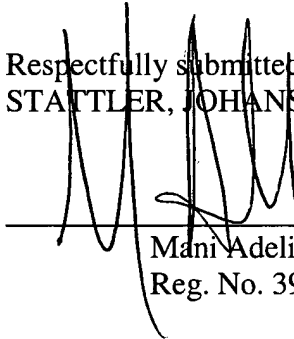
Q/ This patent application claims the benefit of the earlier-filed U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus", having serial number 60/314,580, and filed 8/23/2001; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus", having serial number 60/337,504, and filed 12/6/2001. This patent application is also a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application 10/013,816, filed 10/19/01.--

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment amends the claim of benefit to include a claim of priority to earlier filed U.S. Application 10/013,816, filed 10/19/01.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: February 19, 2003

  
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